

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to add my support to promoting electronic commerce and keeping it free from new Federal, State or local taxes. I am pleased to cosponsor the Internet Tax Freedom Act, S. 442, as it was reported out of the Senate Commerce Committee.

In ways that are becoming increasingly apparent, the Internet is changing the way we do business. More than 30 million people around the world surf the Net. And more and more of these users turn to the World Wide Web and Internet to place orders with suppliers, sell products and services to customers, communicate with clients and market products.

This Internet market is growing at a tremendous pace. Over the past two years, sales generated through the Web grew over 5,000%. And according to one Internet research firm, Net merchants are expected to sell \$6.6 billion worth of goods by the year 2000.

The growth of electronic commerce is everywhere, including my home state of Vermont. On my home page on the Web, I have put together a section called "Cyber Selling In Vermont," which is a step-by-step resource guide for exploring on line commerce and other business uses of the Internet. It includes links to businesses in Vermont that are already cyber selling. As of today, this site includes links to Web sites of more than 100 Vermont businesses that are doing business on the Internet, ranging from the Quill Bookstore in Manchester Center to Al's Snowmobile Parts Warehouse in Newport.

As electronic commerce continues to grow, I am hopeful that we in Congress will be leaders in developing tax policy to nurture this exciting new market. That is why I have closely followed the Internet Tax Freedom Act since Senator WYDEN introduced it last summer. I want to commend the senior Senator from Oregon for his leadership on cyber tax policy.

During my time in the Senate, I always tried to protect the rights of Vermont state and local legislators to craft their laws free from interference from Washington. Thus, the broad, open-ended moratorium on state and local taxes relating to the Internet in the original bill gave me pause. I certainly agreed with the goal of no new state and local taxation of online commerce, but the means were questionable.

I believe those questions have been fully answered by the changes made to this legislation during its consideration in the Senate Commerce Committee. I want to commend Senators MCCAIN, WYDEN, BURNS and KERRY for crafting a substitute bill that protects the free flow of online commerce while accommodating the rights of state and local governments. In particular, I am pleased that the revised legislation adds an end date of January 1, 2004 to the moratorium and clarifies the list of

state and local taxes that are grandfathered under it. The addition of state tax organizations to the Presidential task force to develop long-term Internet tax policy also makes good sense.

Mr. President, I am proud to cosponsor the Internet Tax Freedom Act to foster the growth of online commerce and will work hard for its swift passage into law. •

HONORING THE DEEDS OF MR. FRANK "SKIP" PETTIS III

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask you today to join me in honoring a native hero of Rhode Island, who, by his courage and unselfish interest in the well-being of someone he did not know, saved a man from nearly certain death.

When Frank "Skip" Pettis III set off to work on January 27, he had no idea that he would return home a hero. Pettis, who owns Pettis Marina near Pawtuxet Cove in Warwick, RI, was working when he overheard radio conversations between the Coast Guard and tugboat operators about a kayaker who was declared missing in Narragansett Bay.

Pettis jumped into one of the marina's 24-foot salvage boats and raced to the scene. There, he found Steven McGarry of Warwick, without a kayak or lifejacket, floating in the waves and clinging to a pair of empty bleach bottles, being used as traps. Mr. Pettis grabbed the half conscious and hypothermia-stricken McGarry but, unaided, was unable to lift him into the boat.

Fighting the cold and wet of the waves and the weight of McGarry's body, Pettis waited for what must have seemed an eternity until firefighters arrived to help fish him out of the water. As Pettis put it later, "All I could do was envision him just sliding out of my hands . . . I didn't want that vision stuck in my head for the rest of my life." McGarry, whose temperature had dropped to 82 degrees, was rushed to Rhode Island Hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. By the next day, thanks to Pettis' heroism, McGarry had sufficiently recovered to give thanks to his rescuer.

On January 28, just a day after Pettis hoisted McGarry's nearly frozen body from the icy water, Mayor Lincoln Chafee declared "Skip Pettis Day" in Warwick to honor our local hero.

Mr. President, Skip Pettis is a model for people across America. Hearing of a stranger in need, he joined in a desperate search for a man who, for all purposes, was lost at sea. Finding him, Pettis persevered alone in preventing McGarry's death until help arrived. Mr. Pettis' experience exemplifies a form of altruism that can seem rare today, and, as such, I believe his heroic actions should be honored. •

TRIBUTE TO ISIDORE SCHWARTZ

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Isidore Schwartz, a Polish immigrant to the United States

and World War II veteran who is reported to have been the first man to repair mechanical watches in combat during his four years of dedicated service to the United States Army.

Mr. Schwartz learned the trade of watch repair through a Work Progress Administration program during the Depression, a skill which he later used to assist the United States military. Upon induction into the army, Isidore Schwartz, wishing to use all of his talents to help the war effort, brought the necessary instruments for repairing mechanical watches. Originally, he merely intended to perform favors for the men with whom he served. His ability to repair military mechanical watches in combat developed into a skill recognized and sought after by the Army.

Mr. Schwartz's talent was discovered during an inspection tour of an infantry company. The Commanding Officer of the Company asked Mr. Schwartz's Commanding Officer if he had a watchmaker. The Commanding Officer called Mr. Schwartz over and presented him with several malfunctioning military watches. Working out of a modified bus, Isidore Schwartz successfully repaired the watches. Word spread to the War Department that Private Schwartz had the ability to perform the important function of military watch repair in combat. Had it not been for Mr. Schwartz's initiative during his service, these military watches would have been shipped for repair under hazardous war time conditions.

Isidore Schwartz's contribution to the war effort was not limited to the repair of mechanical watches in combat as he used his ingenuity to perform similar important tasks. One accomplishment was the repair of a lieutenant's eyeglasses which were severely bent out of shape. In the process of straightening the frame, hinges broke on both sides making the glasses unwearable. Despite lacking the necessary parts to perform the repair, Mr. Schwartz, using a small brass rod and a jeweler's file created the necessary hinges thus successfully completing the repair. It is this creativity and dedication to helping fellow soldiers and the United States Army which makes the actions of Private Schwartz deserving of recognition and commendation.

Through our recognition of Mr. Schwartz's achievements, we are reminded of the tremendous contribution immigrants have made in the shaping of our nation. This diverse group of extraordinary, enterprising, and self-sufficient individuals have continuously served to strengthen the United States. The great desire of America's immigrants to contribute combined with a passion to improve their new home has allowed the United States to assume the position of world leader. We are forever grateful for their strength and courage.

The quiet, yet significant actions of Isidore Schwartz during his four years